

NCR Docket No.9049

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-26 are pending in this application. All were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Takashahi and Choy. Applicant has amended the independent claims above. Applicant asks that all claims be allowed.

Takashahi

Takashahi does not show, nor does it even suggest, a system in which the information that is extracted by or delivered to a business entity “includes data describing some aspect of a business relationship between at least one of the business entities and another entity that is not party to the [data-sharing] agreement.” Takashahi’s system is designed specifically to facilitate transactions between entities that have access to the system. To accomplish this end, Takashahi’s system stores information that describes “articles for buyers” to purchase through the system and “the contents of contracts associated with business transactions” that occur through the system. [See, e.g., ¶[0008].] This information thus describes either the products and services offered by the business entities or the vehicles through which the entities can buy and sell those products and services amongst each other. The information delivered by Takashahi’s system does not describe any aspect of a relationship between one of the business entities and some other entity who is not party to the data-sharing agreement.

This difference is significant. A system like Applicant’s allows participating business entities to share not only that data which describes the relationships they have amongst themselves, but also data that describes their relationships with other entities. This type of data about relationships that exist outside the data-sharing arrangement can be useful, for example, in helping the business entities understand relationships that their peers have with common customers or common suppliers. Sharing data of this nature helps the business entities gain a more complete picture of the people or organizations with whom they do business, which in turn allows the business entities to improve their operational efficiency and effectiveness. While Takashahi’s system is useful in helping business entities become more efficient in dealing with each other, it does nothing to improve business practices between the business entities and other parties.

NCR Docket No.9049

Choy

Like Takashahi, Choy also fails to show or suggest a system in which the information that is extracted by or delivered to a business entity “includes data describing some aspect of a business relationship between at least one of the business entities and another entity that is not party to the [data-sharing] agreement.” Accordingly, all of the claims are patentable over the combination of these references.

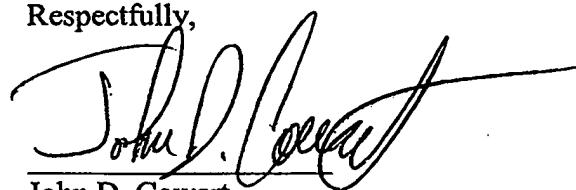
NCR Docket No.9049

CONCLUSION

The Takashahi and Choy references, even when combined, do not show or suggest the invention claimed by Applicant. Therefore, all of the claims are allowable over these references. Applicant asks the Office to reconsider this application and allow all of the claims.

The Office is authorized to charge any fees that may be due, except for the issue fee, to deposit account 50-1673.

Respectfully,



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